

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are present in the application.

New Claims 9 through 16, added by this Amendment, are directed to a simplified embodiment of the present invention wherein the "interconnected series of breakaway intermediate sections connecting said front and back sections" is characterized simply as "breakaway means connecting said front and back sections." Thus, the embodiment of Claims 9 through 16 requires only the front section, the back section and breakaway means connecting the front and back sections.

New Claims 17 and 18 are method claims directed to use of the units of product Claims 1 and 9, respectively, according to the present invention.

In view of the outstanding rejection based on an earlier Primiano reference, by the attached Form 1449, Applicant draws the Examiner's attention to Primiano, et al. U.S. 6,615,995, issued September 9, 2003. It is noted that this patent did not exist more than three months prior to the date of filing of this Amendment and hence Applicant could not have been aware of it.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, a prompt and favorable action is respectfully requested.

If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Request for Extension of Time, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Request for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a


Appl. No. 10/043,844
Amdt. dated October 29, 2003
Reply to Office Action of June 19, 2003

period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed. Any fee required for such a Request for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 and not submitted herewith should be charged to the Deposit Account of the undersigned attorneys, Account No. 01-1785; any refund should be credited to the same account. One copy of this document is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

AMSTER, ROTHSTEIN & EBENSTEIN LLP
Attorneys for Applicant
90 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10016
(212) 336-8000

Dated: New York, New York
October 29, 2003

By: 
Neal L. Rosenberg
Registration No.: 21,088